



## **DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS 28-01-2025**

### **GS-1**

1. Tableau at Republic day parade
2. Indonesia

### **GS-2**

3. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)

### **GS-3**

4. Pralay tactical missile
5. Sundarban bird festival

## Tableau at Republic day parade

Syllabus: GS-1; Art & Culture

### Context

- The 76th Republic Day parade on January 26, 2025, showcased India's rich cultural diversity, military prowess, and innovative progress.



### Notable Tableaux:

1. **Madhya Pradesh:** Focused on the reintroduction of cheetahs in Kuno National Park, with a vibrant depiction of wildlife and the traditional Lehangi dance.
2. **CPWD (Central Public Works Department):** A flower-crafted tableau celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Indian Constitution, featuring the Ashoka Chakra and the Constitution.
3. **Delhi:** Emphasized the city as a hub of quality education, with symbolic representations of digitization and robotic technology in the medical field.
4. **Dadra & Nagar Haveli, Daman & Diu:** Highlighted rich wildlife, the Walk-in Bird Aviary, and advanced fishing harbor systems.
5. **Bihar:** Showcased the cultural and spiritual legacy of Nalanda University and Bodhi Tree, symbolizing Buddha's enlightenment.

6. **Uttar Pradesh:** Celebrated the Maha Kumbh at Prayagraj, with vibrant depictions of Samudra Manthan, Amrit Kalash, and holy bathing at Sangam.
7. **West Bengal:** Highlighted women's empowerment through the Lakshmir Bhandar scheme and promoted folk art with the Lok Prasar Prakalpa initiative.
8. **IMD (India Meteorological Department):** Marked its 150th anniversary with depictions of cyclone forecasting and its role in saving lives and aiding agriculture.
9. **Jharkhand:** Blended heritage and progress, featuring tribal art, educational initiatives, and the iconic Tata Steel plant.
10. **Karnataka:** Depicted the artistic temples of Lakkundi, emphasizing historical and architectural grandeur.

### Additional Highlights:

- **President Droupadi Murmu's Arrival:** For the first time since 1984, President Murmu arrived in a traditional horse-drawn buggy, alongside Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, marking a departure from the usual black limousines.
- **First Tri-services Tableau:** A joint Army, Navy, and Air Force tableau depicted synchronized operations with indigenous military equipment.
- **Indonesian Contingent:** A 76-member Indonesian military contingent participated in the parade, marking the first of its kind for a Republic Day celebration.
- **Andhra Pradesh:** Earned praise for eco-friendly Etikoppaka wooden toys.
- **Haryana:** Focused on the Bhagavad Gita's teachings from Kurukshetra, technological innovation, and women's empowerment.
- **Punjab:** Celebrated its musical and handicraft traditions, alongside its agrarian heritage.
- **Tripura:** Highlighted the worship of 14 deities and Kharchi Puja with intricate bamboo-based art.
- **Goa:** Showcased Kaavi art and the traditional Diwija festival.

The parade represented a harmonious blend of India's "**Virasat**" (**heritage**) and "**Vikas**" (**development**), offering a spectacular display of the nation's ethos and progress.

## Indonesia

### Syllabus: GS-1; Geography- Mapping

#### Context

- Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto's visit to India, as chief guest at the Republic Day parade, was replete with the symbolism of historically important ties between the two countries.

#### About

- **Official Name:** Republic of Indonesia
- **Capital:** Jakarta
- **Location:** Southeast Asia and Oceania; largest archipelagic state in the world.
- **Geography:**
  - Spread across **17,508 islands** (approx. 6,000 inhabited), including Java, Sumatra, Borneo (shared), Sulawesi, and New Guinea (shared).



- **Borders:** Malaysia (north), Papua New Guinea (east), Timor-Leste (east), and maritime boundaries with India, Australia, and the Philippines.
- Strategic position between the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

### Political System

- **Government Type:** Unitary presidential constitutional republic.
- **President:** Head of state and government (currently Joko Widodo).
- **Legislature:**
  - People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), consisting of:
    - People's Representative Council (DPR) – Lower house.
    - Regional Representative Council (DPD) – Upper house.
- **Legal System:** Based on Roman-Dutch law and customary law (Adat).

### Economy

- **GDP (Nominal):** \$1.4 trillion (2023, approx.).
- **Sectors:**
  - **Agriculture:** Major crops include palm oil, rubber, coffee, rice, and spices.
  - **Industry:** Petroleum, natural gas, textiles, automotive, electronics.
  - **Services:** Tourism, banking, and telecommunications.
- **Natural Resources:** Coal, petroleum, natural gas, tin, nickel, copper, gold, palm oil.
- **Trade:** Major partners: China, Japan, US, India, ASEAN nations.
- **Membership:** ASEAN, G20, OPEC (rejoined in 2023), APEC, WTO.

### Geopolitical Significance

- **Strategic Location:**
  - Lies along key shipping routes like the **Strait of Malacca** and the **Sunda Strait**, critical for global trade and energy supplies.
- **ASEAN Leadership:**
  - Indonesia is the largest economy and population center in ASEAN, playing a central role in regional diplomacy.
- **Regional Stability:**
  - Indonesia promotes non-alignment and regional stability under its "**free and active**" foreign policy.
- **Climate Diplomacy:**
  - Plays a significant role in discussions on climate change due to its vast forests and biodiversity.

## History and Culture

- **Ancient Civilizations:**
  - Early kingdoms like **Srivijaya** (Buddhist, 7th century) and **Majapahit** (Hindu, 13th century).
- **Islamic Influence:**
  - Islam spread through trade (13th century), making Indonesia the world's largest Muslim-majority country.
- **Colonial Period:**
  - Colonized by the Dutch for over three centuries.
  - Brief occupation by Japan during World War II.
- **Independence:**
  - Declared on **August 17, 1945**, led by **Sukarno** and **Hatta**.
  - Recognized by the Dutch in 1949 after the Indonesian National Revolution.
- **Cultural Diversity:**
  - Over 1,300 ethnic groups; prominent ones include Javanese (40%), Sundanese, Batak, and Balinese.
  - Languages: **Bahasa Indonesia** (official), over 700 regional languages.
  - Religion: Islam (~87%), Christianity (~10%), Hinduism, Buddhism, and local beliefs.

## Environment and Biodiversity

- **Forests and Biodiversity:**
  - World's 3rd largest tropical rainforest.
  - Rich biodiversity, including **orangutans**, Komodo dragons, tigers, and rhinos.
- **Environmental Challenges:**
  - Deforestation due to palm oil plantations and logging.
  - Vulnerability to climate change (rising sea levels, forest fires).
- **Initiatives:**
  - Member of **REDD+** (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation).
  - Hosting green energy projects, including geothermal and solar.

## India-Indonesia Relations

- **Historical Ties:**
  - Cultural linkages through Hinduism and Buddhism.
  - Ancient maritime trade routes.
- **Strategic Partnership:**

- Defense ties, naval exercises (e.g., **Samudra Shakti**).
- Cooperation in counter-terrorism, maritime security.
- **Trade & Investment:**
  - India imports coal, palm oil, and natural gas.
  - Export of machinery, refined petroleum, spices.
- **Regional Cooperation:**
  - Collaborating under ASEAN-India Framework and IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association).
- **Cultural Ties:**
  - Shared heritage seen in Ramayana, Mahabharata traditions.

### Republic Day Chief Guests (India)

- **First Republic Day (1950):**
  - Chief Guest: **President Sukarno** of Indonesia.
  - Significance: Marked the beginning of inviting foreign dignitaries.
- **76th Republic Day (2025):**
  - Chief Guest: **President Prabowo Subianto** of Indonesia.
  - Highlights:
    - Fourth time an Indonesian leader was the chief guest.
    - Emphasis on India-Indonesia ties in defense, trade, and maritime security.
    - Showcased India's cultural diversity and military strength.

## **Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA)**

### Syllabus: GS-2; Government policies and Interventions

#### Context

- Congress MP Jairam Ramesh accused the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi of trying to “throttle” the rural job guarantee scheme or MGNREGA, and said the Union Budget must increase allocation for the scheme, address technological glitches in the Aadhaar-based payment system and hike the number of workdays.



## Key Features of MGNREGA

- **Enactment and Objective:**
  - Enacted in **2005**.
  - Ensures **livelihood security** by providing at least **100 days of wage employment** in a financial year to every rural household willing to do unskilled manual work.
- **Universal Right:**
  - It is **demand-driven**, meaning employment must be provided on demand.
- **Scope:**
  - Applicable to all rural areas in India.
  - Focus on creating durable assets like roads, canals, ponds, and wells.
- **Wage Payment:**
  - Wages are paid as per **minimum wage rates** notified by the state governments.
  - Payments are to be made **within 15 days** of work completion to ensure transparency.
- **Transparency and Accountability:**
  - Social audits are conducted to ensure accountability.
  - Utilizes **IT-enabled platforms** like the NREGA Soft portal for real-time monitoring.
- **Funding:**
  - **Centrally sponsored scheme:** Central government bears 100% of the wages for unskilled labor and 75% of the cost for materials.

## Implementation Process

- **Registration:**
  - Rural households can apply by submitting an application form with photos of adult members.
- **Job Card:**
  - Issued to registered households; acts as an entitlement for work.
- **Work Allocation:**
  - Employment must be provided **within 15 days** of demand; failure results in unemployment allowance.
- **Work Categories:**
  - Activities include water conservation, drought proofing, rural connectivity, and afforestation.



## Key Achievements

- **Employment Generation:**
  - Provides a safety net for the rural poor, especially during agricultural off-seasons.
- **Empowerment:**
  - Significant participation of women (over **50% of the workforce**).
- **Asset Creation:**
  - Contributed to rural infrastructure like roads, irrigation canals, and water conservation projects.
- **Financial Inclusion:**
  - Promoted financial literacy and inclusion through wage payments via **direct benefit transfer (DBT)**.

## Challenges

- **Delay in Wage Payments:**
  - Frequent delays due to inefficient fund allocation.
- **Corruption:**
  - Leakages in fund disbursement and manipulation in muster rolls.
- **Underperformance in Some States:**
  - Uneven implementation due to capacity constraints.
- **Environmental Concerns:**
  - Some projects have led to environmental degradation due to improper planning.

## Recent Developments

- **Budget Allocation:**
  - The budget for MGNREGA fluctuates annually; recent years have seen significant cuts, leading to concerns about its effectiveness.
- **Digital Initiatives:**
  - **Geo-tagging of assets** and real-time monitoring through digital platforms have been implemented.
- **Skilling Integration:**
  - Efforts to integrate skilling initiatives with MGNREGA for better employment outcomes.
- **Focus on Sustainability:**
  - Projects now emphasize climate resilience, such as water harvesting and afforestation.

## **Pralay tactical missile**

Syllabus: GS-3; Science & Technology

### Context

- R-Day Parade: From 'Sanjay' surveillance system to Pralay tactical missile, the India-made weapons on display.

## **PRALAY: Surface-to-Surface Missile**

Pralay is a canisterised tactical, surface-to-surface, and short-range ballistic missile for battlefield use developed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation of India

**ENGINE:** Two stage rocket motor with third stage MaRV

**SPEED:** Mach 1 to 1.6

**RANGE:** 150-500 km

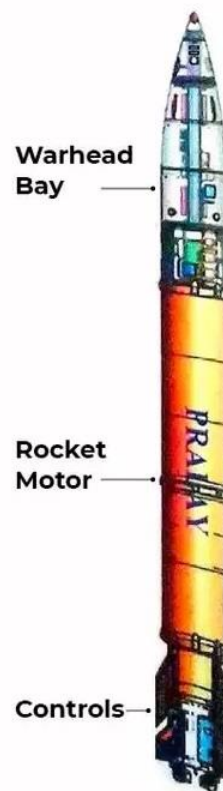
**TRAJECTORY:** low

**GUIDANCE SYSTEM:** Inertial navigation system

**LAUNCH PLATFORM:** 8x8 BEML-Tatra transporter erector launcher

**MASS:** 5 tonnes (4.9 long tons; 5.5 short tons)

**OPERATIONAL RANGE:** 150-500 km (93-311 mi)



Can change its path after covering certain range mid-air and is difficult to be tracked

It is capable of being launched from a mobile launcher and has latest navigation system and integrated avionics

It has the **capability to defeat interceptor missiles**

**Type:**

- Surface-to-surface, **short-range ballistic missile (SRBM)**.
- Tactical quasi-ballistic missile.

**Development:**

- Developed by **DRDO**.
- Sanctioned in March 2015.
- Combines technologies from Prithvi Defence Vehicle (PDV) and Prahaar missile systems.

**Range and Payload:**

- Range: 150–500 km.
- Warhead weight: 500–1,000 kg.

**Warhead Options:**

- High-Explosive Preformed Fragmentation (HE-PFF).
- Penetration-Cum-Blast (PCB).
- Runway Denial Penetration Submunition (RDPS).

**Guidance and Accuracy:**

- Mid-course guidance: Inertial Navigation System (INS).
- Terminal guidance: Millimeter Wave (MMW) seeker, DSMAC, Radar Imaging.
- Accuracy: Circular Error Probable (CEP) < 10 meters.

**Launch Platform:**

- Mounted on a 12x12 Ashok Leyland Heavy Mobility Vehicle Transporter Erector Launcher (TEL).

**Operational Capabilities:**

- Quick deployment: Launch readiness in 10 minutes.
- Command to launch transition: 60 seconds.
- **Maneuverable Reentry Vehicle (MaRV)** for evading interceptors.
- Equipped with decoys to distract enemy air defenses.

**Propulsion:**

- Solid-fuel rocket motor.

### Strategic Role:

- Designed for targeting radar, communication installations, command centers, and airfields.
- Complements India's '**No First Use**' nuclear policy with conventional warhead capabilities.
- Enhances India's tactical battlefield strength.

### Significance:

- Fills the gap for a conventional tactical ballistic missile.
- Rapid deployment and high accuracy make it a key defense asset.

## Sundarban bird festival

### Syllabus: GS-3; Biodiversity

#### Context

- The **third Sundarban Bird Festival**, held from **January 22 to 26, 2025**, recorded an impressive **154 species of birds**. This initiative, aimed at promoting awareness and conservation of avifauna, saw participation from **40 birders across six teams**, who collectively spotted **31,926 birds**.



### Key Highlights:

- **Bird Species Distribution:**
  - **Migratory Birds:** 51 species
  - **Resident Birds:** 103 species
- **Habitats Covered:**
  - Core area of Sundarban Tiger Reserve: 100 species
  - Buffer zone: 90 species
  - Outside protected areas: 129 species
  - Specific forest areas:
    - Matla forests: 108 species
    - Kalas: 95 species
    - Sajnekhali: 64 species (lowest)
    - National Park West: 81 species
    - National Park East: 70 species
    - Basirhat: 73 species

### Bird Types Spotted:

- **Waders, Mudflat, and Shore Birds:** 45 species
- **Raptors:** 8 species
- **Forest Birds:** 91 species
- **Waterfowls:** 3 species
- **Other Birds:** 7 species

### Threatened Species:

Twelve threatened species were recorded, including:

- **Eurasian Curlew**
- **Brown-winged Kingfisher**
- **Black-capped Kingfisher**
- **Grey Plover**
- **Lesser Sand Plover**
- **Terek Sandpiper**
- **Common Redshank**

### Trends Over the Years:

- **2023 (First Festival):**
  - 5,065 birds sighted across 145 species
- **2024 (Second Festival):**
  - 8,886 birds sighted across 135 species
- **2025 (Third Festival):**
  - 31,926 birds sighted across 154 species

- This significant rise in the number of species and birds observed reflects increasing diversity and the success of conservation efforts in the region.

### **Sundarban Ecosystem:**

- The Indian Sundarban, spanning **4,000 sq. km**, is the **world's only mangrove forest** supporting a significant tiger population (about 100). This unique habitat is vital for the survival of diverse bird species and other wildlife.

### **Way Forward:**

- Officials suggest integrating the festival's findings with the global bird database to enhance the understanding of the Sundarban's avifauna and promote its conservation on a global scale.